



JOURNAL

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FRONZ CONFERENCE 2015 - REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN

OUR 2015 SPONSORS



**FRONZ CONFERENCE 2015
BLENHEIM
29 MAY TO 1 JUNE 2015
Queen's Birthday Weekend**

Our Conference
Host Group:



The 2015 FRONZ Conference will include presentations of heritage railway and tramway interest, Kiwirail, plus our rail regulator, and visits to local and other interesting sites, as well as the FRONZ AGM and Awards Dinner.

Delegates, Observers and Partners from all member groups are welcome.

Friday 29 May activities will start at Nelson Railway with optional coach travel via Nelson

Saturday 30 May Conference Sessions.

Sunday 31 May. FRONZ AGM, Conference Sessions in morning. Blenheim Riverside Railway and Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre in afternoon visits and Awards Dinner.

Monday 1 June. Visit Edwin Fox, Picton.

STOP PRESS! KIWIRAIL CEO WILL BE AT CONFERENCE

Peter Reidy, Kiwirail CEO, has confirmed he will be attending the FRONZ Conference and will address the Conference on Saturday. This is the first time since 2010 we have had the Kiwirail CEO at Conference and he will have important information to share.

**See Page 2 for more conference detail
and booking information.**

**JOURNAL IS FOR ALL OF YOUR MEMBERS. PLEASE
FORWARD IT TO ALL ON YOUR E-MAIL LISTS**

CONFERENCE 2015 REGISTRATION IS OPEN. ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Registration for conference is now open. This can be done on our website by choosing the "Conferences" button which will take you to the registration page.

Or you can click on the link below which will take you straight to the registration page. Accommodation can be booked at the same time.

[FRONZ: Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand, Inc.](#)

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

We are still putting the final touches to the Conference Program but for those wanting to make travel bookings we will again be using the Volvo coach of Michael Boyton as we did in Oamaru in 2013.

Friday 29 May.

The coach will leave Nelson Airport at 10.30am, travel to Nelson Railway for a visit and lunch, then leaving Nelson at 2pm for Blenheim.

Conference Registration and Social Evening at Clubs of Marlborough from 5pm.

Saturday 30 May.

Conference opening at 08.45am. Conference sessions all day at Clubs of Marlborough until approximately 5pm. Evening free.

Sunday 31 May.

FRONZ AGM and conference session until lunch. From 12.45pm we will be hosted by Blenheim Riverside Railway running a shuttle train service from their Beaver Station, a short walk (350m) from the Conference Venue, to their workshop in Brayshaw Park, and along the new branch line to the Omaka Aviation Museum. Visit to the Aviation Museum is included in your conference registration fee and is an optional booking option for partners that do not wish to attend the conference sessions. Last train will leave the Aviation Museum to return to town at 4.30pm.

The Annual FRONZ Awards Dinner will be held at Clubs Of Marlborough from 6.30pm. This is also included in your conference fee but can be booked separately by partners.

Monday 1 June.

Our coach will be leaving Blenheim at 9am for Picton where we will visit the Edwin Fox restored ship built in 1853. Lunch will be available at the Edwin Fox from 11.30. Separate booking option is available for ALL delegates and partners wishing to join the visit to Picton. The coach will leave Picton at 12.30pm travel via Blenheim and Blenheim Airport to drop off any people that wish to stay or fly out of Blenheim at approximately 1.15pm. The coach will then continue to Nelson Airport arriving at approximately 3.15pm.

CONFERENCE VENUE

The Conference Venue is Clubs of Marlborough, 42 Alfred Street. Blenheim.

ACCOMODATION

We have only been able to hold rooms at two accommodation venues so don't delay with your bookings which can be made directly from our booking web site. When these are full there are other motel options available in Blenheim.

The main accommodation near our conference venue is the Chateau Marlborough located centrally on the corner of High and Henry Streets, under 500metres from the Conference venue.

The second option is Cherylea Motel which is a little further away at 73 Nelson Street (approx. 1.5km). The coach will be parked there and available to transport delegates and partners to the conference venue.

QUESTIONS/QUERIES

If you have any other questions about Conference please contact: Trevor Burling by e-mail at trevor.burling@xtra.co.nz AND Scott Osmond at scottosmond@xtra.co.nz.

Trevor will be away for part of the booking period so please send any questions to BOTH e-mails.

FRONZ AWARDS 2015



2015 Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand Achievement Awards

The following awards are available for presentation at the Annual Awards Dinner, 31 May 2015 at Blenheim.

Award	Prize	Entry Closes
Shantytown Steam School - Steam Locomotive Restoration Award	\$2,000 & Trophy	30 April 2015
KiwiRail Infrastructure Improvement Award	\$ 2,000 & Trophy	30 April 2015
KiwiRail Mechanical Diesel / Electric Locomotive Restoration Award	Certificate and Plaques	30 April 2015
Tramway Restoration Award	\$ 500 towards a "Study Trip to an Australasian destination" courtesy of 'The MoTaT Society'	30 April 2015
Carriage / Guards Van Restoration Award	\$500 & trophy, courtesy of Dunedin Railways Ltd	30 April 2015
Goods / Service Wagons Restoration Award	Certificate & \$ 500 towards a "Study Trip to an Australasian destination" courtesy of 'The MoTaT Society'	30 April 2015
AON Young Achievers Award	Up to \$1000 towards the costs of attending next year's Conference.	30 April 2015
Rail Heritage Trust Restoration Award	Plaque	30 April 2015
Weta Workshops Award for Creativity & Imagination in Rail Preservation	Trophy courtesy of Weta Workshops	No entry required
P S Heighton Award For Excellence	\$ 500 towards a "Study Trip to an Australasian destination" courtesy of 'The MoTaT Society'	No entry required

GREYMOUTH BIDS TO BUY THE KINGSTON FLYER

Wednesday Apr 1, 2015. From NZ Herald

Greymouth has put its hand up to buy the famous Kingston Flyer steam train, which hasn't moved since running into financial difficulties about two years ago.

Grey District Mayor Tony Kokshoorn raised the idea of running the Flyer between Greymouth and Hokitika, and/or Reefton, with a side track laid to Shantytown. He has already raised the possibility with the Queenstown Lakes District Council, which said it intended lowering the heritage rating on the train, from one to two.

"They told me that over the next eight weeks it is going to council. They are going to change the status from a one to a two. That needs a resolution from council. That means it could be sold outside of the Queenstown district," Mr Kokshoorn said.

In early March, the Otago Daily Times reported the Kingston Flyer had been idle for almost two years and was for sale for \$2.1 million. Mr Kokshoorn hoped Greymouth could get the train for less than that.

"They want \$2.1m for the whole operation, but it will be far less than that because we only want the rolling stock with two engines. "We don't know the final figure, that will have to be negotiated."

There is competition for the old train. The National Transport and Toy Museum at Wanaka Airport has suggested it could accept it for a static display.

Mr Kokshoorn said the idea hinged on funding from Development West Coast, which gave out only \$800,000 in commercial loans in the year to March 2014. Mr Kokshoorn said he had talked with Development West Coast management but had not yet made an application. He suggested Shantytown would need to have a hand in the operation.

"They have the workshop, the housing, equipment and structure to take it further."

Adding a track out to Shantytown was another idea, though Mr Kokshoorn acknowledged this proposal had long been on the cards.

"We have talked about it over the years but it kept running out of steam." The project would need a "serious look at the feasibility and the finance".

The West Coast history of steam gave the region a point of difference over other parts of the country.

Development West Coast chief executive Joseph Thomas said purchasing the train was "very much at 'idea/concept' phase". There had been a site visit to inspect the plant and equipment but no conclusions had been reached.

Mike Keenan was a member of the Westland heritage steam train trust, which had proposed a steam train ride taking people from the Tranz Alpine on to Hokitika. The group recently disbanded. Mr Keenan said a steam train ride was a "golden opportunity" and could be "something a bit different". The idea had lost momentum in Hokitika after the Christchurch earthquake, he said. The trust had purchased a turntable for \$7000, but it was still in Balclutha and would probably cost about \$30,000 to transport it to Hokitika. "The track from Hokitika to Greymouth is there, all it needs is a turntable ... If you can get the turntable up here [the Kingston Flyer] would be realistic," Mr Keenan said. However, he doubted a side rail line from Paroa to Shantytown would be as viable: "It's going to cost millions."

Reefton Historic Trust Board chairman Paul Thomas was enthusiastic about the opportunity. A steam train would be a "unique passenger opportunity for the West Coast". Mr Thomas, who has helped create a historic railway precinct around the Reefton Railway Station in recent years, said he thought the project was "very do-able" but stressed the need for collaboration among different groups.

By Nicholas McBride

WATTRAIN CONFERENCE



We have received information from WATTRAIN (The World Association of Trams & Trains), who are currently organising the 2nd International conference to be held in Japan in October 2015. This follows the very successful 1st Conference held in the UK in 2012. Members may be interested in Wattrain and the Japan conference. Further information at www.wattrain.net

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

These items are obtained from numerous e-newsletters that our member groups publish. Members are welcome to submit these or any other information they would like to share with the wider rail and tramway heritage community by e-mailing to scottosmond@xtra.co.nz

WAIRARAPA RAILWAY RESTORATION SOCIETY

While in Wellington recently we also spent a night with friends in Carterton. What lovely and well maintained towns there are in the Wairarapa. I insisted on a station visit and noticed that the local FRONZ member group have recently re-painted the station in the more traditional cream and red. Hopefully it will include the outbuildings as well. A nice well kept station precinct still pretty much with its early flavour including sheds and rolling stock. Some pictures I took are below.



BUSH TRAMWAY CLUB

The previous FRONZ journal reported the Bush Tramway Club were building a new car shelter. Bruce McLuckie has sent these pictures and advises the shelter is now built and will be a much needed addition at Pukemiro Junction.

The shelter is 47m long and is more than enough to cover 3 carriages.

Construction was by Totalspan.



NELSON RAILWAY SOCIETY NEWS

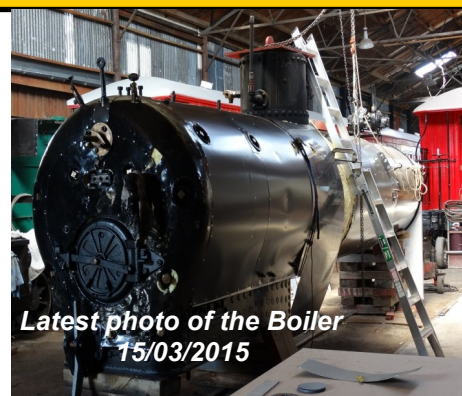
Wf 403. Progress has been very slow over the last few months due to the threads in some of the washout plugs being very eaten away. This required new bosses to be made and tig welded into the outer shell. While doing a pressure test it was found to be leaking behind the gauge glass fitting to the back head, on removal with some heat applied three cracks appeared from the stud holes to the water outlets. These have been ground and welded up with a doubling plate fitting and new studs. The cover plate on the Steam dome has been machined at the seal edge also the bases of the pop-it valves, and new copper gaskets cut. We have machined the seats of the regulator valve and tested it. Our dry pipe was only 6 mm thick so it was cut off and the fittings removed, a new 10mm pipe was obtained and the bronze fittings welded on, then tested. There have been a lot of rivets leaking around the front tube plate area, we have been very busy caulking these up. We accepted a quote to form and weld up our super heater elements, to be completed in early October. We supplied the tube and fittings. After waiting until early January I rang the company and the answer to my query was we are too busy and cannot do them before April! I have now contacted another company in Christchurch and await their quote. We have tried asking most societies whether they have a snifter valve with no luck, so we set too and had one made, great job looks just like the railway one. A lot of the external pipe that is missing has been made ready; this includes many bronze nuts and tails.

The WF Boiler has passed its hydraulic test.

Carriage A785. This carriage is in the workshop undergoing an overhaul. The windows have all been removed for sanding down and some small repairs. The catch racks were removed and repaired, some new racks made and fitted. The outer bodywork has been sanded down primed and two coats of red applied. The chassis has been cleaned and painted by the corrections boys. The roof has yet to be painted grey plus the platforms and gates need another coat of black. We have just received the new covering to repair the arm rests.

Storage Shed. One end of our storage shed is up and the other half is on site we are now waiting on the council variation as we have had to remove the centre poles and use LVL beams. When it is finished it will be 18 by 7.5 metres, this will give us cover for all our rolling stock.

DSA & Railcar. The train and Railcar have been good money earners over the summer with no major breakdowns. However over the winter both will need some preventative maintenance.



*Latest photo of the Boiler
15/03/2015*

TRAMWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUNSET TOUR

On the evening of Wednesday 18 March, Ferrymead's Tramway Historical Society had one of their annual sunset tours of Christchurch. This was one with a real difference! Instead using one of their vintage buses they toured the central city by tram.

Hosted by the Christchurch Tramways Ltd using two of their THS-owned trams leased through The Heritage Tramways Trust to the Welcome Aboard Group, the trams were driven by THS-member town drivers. They travelled over the new extension (twice) before finishing on the old circuit in New Regent Street just in time for supper.

The two trams used were Christchurch Boon 152 and Invercargill Birney 15. The tour set out soon after 7:30 pm and followed the Restaurant Tram on its normal evening mealtime run around the extension. Photos from D.L.A. Turner.

Right. Looking through 152 with Ken Henderson in charge, the Restaurant Tram (former Melbourne W2, 411) had just turned off the original tourist circuit onto the extension. The hoped-for sunset was of course hidden by the usual low grey cloud and drizzle accompanied by a chilly southerly wind.



Left. The extension ends in High Street at the triple-street junction with Lichfield and Manchester Streets. In spite of the absence of any evening sun, the twilight nonetheless made for interesting lighting as the tour party in 152 passed those in 15 on the double-tracked section along High Street from Cashel Street.

Right. The second time around the extension the twilight had yielded to darkness. Looking through the front of Birney 15 with Joe Pickering as motorman, 152 was just arriving at the end of the new extension in High Street.



STEAMRAIL WANGANUI INC.

January 17th-19th 2015 (Wanganui Vintage Weekend): SRW was once again involved with this weekend and what a busy weekend it was. A big thank you to all members who helped out over the long weekend. We had our doors open to the public over the three days. Mainline Steam were here with the AB on Saturday and Sunday, so we helped with crowd control as well as guarding it on Saturday night. On the Monday we ran motor trolley rides and a sausage sizzle. We made over \$700 in donations for the weekend which was great.



Shunting Course: We would like to congratulate Warrick Laws, Eddie Frith and John A'Hern who have passed their shunting course. Motor Trolley Drivers: On Monday 19th January during a quiet period of our motor trolley operating we took the opportunity to train a few more people on the motor trolley's. We would like to congratulate the following: - Warrick, Steven and Russell who are now certified to drive them. This is great news, we now have 13 members qualified to operate our trollies during our Open Days.

Silver Fern Railcar Visit: SRW has been asked to do the guarding of the railcar overnight on Sunday the 1st of March. It is due in about 4pm and leaves about 9am Monday morning. This is worth \$400 to the club and it should be housed overnight next to our shed.

Waitara Trips. Over late November and early December SRW members did several trips to the Waitara Group to pick up spare parts for our Drewery locomotive from a loco that group was scrapping and to help celebrate the opening of their bridge.

From "Wanganui's Mixed Traffic & Railscene" newsletter.

FEILDING AND DISTRICT STEAM RAIL SOCIETY INC

Report from Athol Gibson

Our first outing for 2015 with WAB794 was to visit the Pahiatua Railcar Centre. This trip was postponed due to the extreme dry weather conditions and fire risk. Disappointing at the time but a very wise decision. This trip is now planned for April 19th.

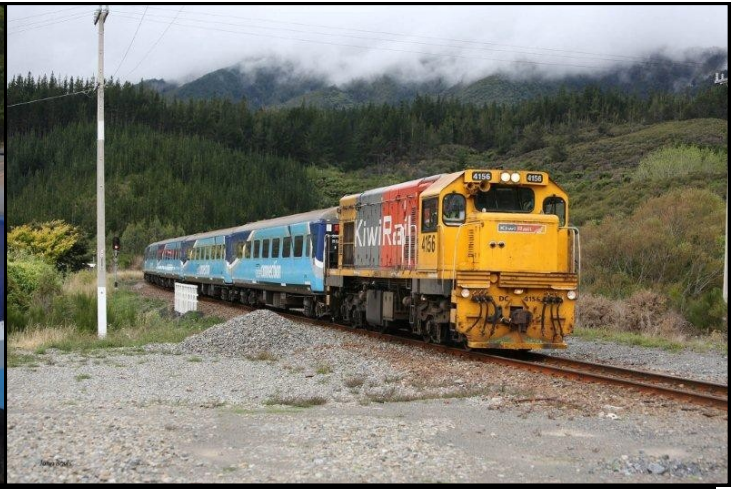
The "Around the Block" trip on March 22nd went very well. This was diesel hauled using the Capital Connection cars commencing from Feilding – Palmerston North – Masterton- Wellington -Otaki and return to Feilding.

This was a very beneficial event for all Feilding Steam Rail members involved on the day as we received "Tunnel Awareness' training as to the requirements for the Rimutaka tunnel.

On April 12th FSR ran a trip from Feilding to the Raurimu Spiral and return. An interesting feature was that it was hauled with an Electric Loco and the Consist made up with four FSR Heritage Carriages and FM Van, two Capital Connection Carriages and an AG Van. With no physical access between the two sets of cars our use of radios worked well for communicating.

Both of these trips were very popular and we have had very good feedback from passengers some of them travelling from Rotorua, Te Awamutu, Takapuna and no doubt other places too. This makes all the planning worthwhile.

FSR next planned trip is Steam hauled to Wanganui on June 14th.



The Fielding Steam Rail Excursion at Eketahuna and Maymorn. Athol Gibson

TRAMWAYS WANGANUI TRUST

From Wanganui Chronicle

Wanganui is getting its very own celebrity tram.

Yes, you heard right - a tram used in Peter Jackson's film King Kong will join the No 12 Tram Mable down on the waterfront in several months.

The tram, which has been gifted to the Tram Shed by the Wellington Tramway Museum, was built in Melbourne and used as public transport in the late 1920s.

The tram, referred to as "dreadnought", was built between 1908 and 1925.

"Our tram track has a wider gauge than the tram tracks in Wellington, which is why we have been given the dreadnought," Tramways Trust chair Kritzo Venter said.

"We feel that it will provide variety to our riverfront tramway experience, and it would be a really exciting project for our volunteers to restore it to its former glory."

People were looking forward to the restoration process, Mr Venter told the Chronicle.

"A lot of our volunteers are looking forward to that process because of the history."

He could not say how long the restoration process would take or what would need to be done. "The first step would be to generate a conservation plan for the restoration of the tram based on its condition and what needs to be done. The aim would be to restore it as close as we possibly can to its original aesthetic appearances and operational behaviour."

He could not say yet how much it would cost to restore the tram.

New track would need to be built before the tram could be brought to Wanganui, and that was expected to cost around \$20,000, he said. By the time that could be done, and further modifications to the tram shed made, it would be about April or May before the tram could be brought here. The trust is also looking at potential next steps for the tram project based on input from the public. These include extending the track to the Dublin Street Bridge or developing a track along Victoria Avenue.



MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

RAIL HERITAGE TRUST

The Rail Heritage Trust owns the 134 year old former railway goods shed at Greytown, in South Wairarapa. We are close to completing the restoration of the shed.

We would like to add to the authenticity of the site by reinstating railway track, at NZR gauge, inside the shed and beyond the back of the shed to alongside a vintage loading bank. This involves 47 metres of track (94 meters of rail). We are also seeking early forms of track fastenings e.g. dog spikes, or early screw fastenings. The track will not need to carry moving wagons. There will be one elderly La wagon which will live a stationary life inside the shed.

The original rail on the branch was about 55 pound to the yard. We recognise the near impossibility of getting any of that weight, but should there be 70 or 75 pound rail available that would be fine. Otherwise we shall get used 90 pound from KiwiRail.

Has anyone got spare dog spikes or old screw spikes we could buy? We need 180, or any number up to that. We expect to pay for all that we get. Please contact Euan McQueen at 04 4799 568, or at basecamp2@xtra.co.nz

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AUSTRALIAN LONG-DISTANCE PASSENGER OPERATOR SOLD

By Keith Fender | April 2, 2015

SYDNEY – Australian long-distance passenger operator Great Southern Rail has been sold to Australian private equity firm Allegro Funds for \$3.7 million by its previous owner, U.K.-based transport and business services company Serco. In 2014 the passenger operator earned revenues of around \$86 million.

It was formed following the privatization of Australia's former national operator Australian National in 1997.

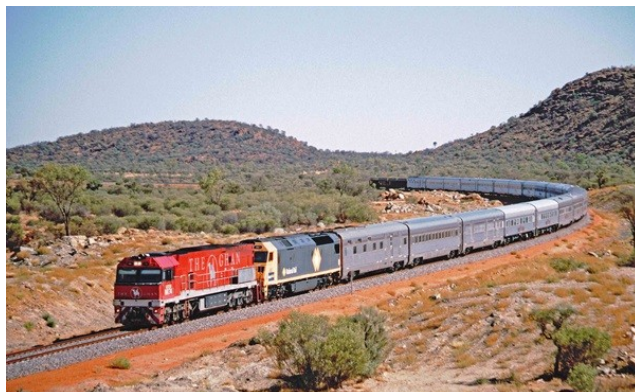
Great Southern provides long-distance passenger rail service in Australia, largely aimed at leisure travelers and tourists on three routes: the *Ghan* (Darwin-Adelaide), the *Indian Pacific* (Sydney-Perth), and the *Overland* (Adelaide to Melbourne). The trains use stainless steel equipment built in Australia in the 1960s.

Freight operator Pacific National provides locomotives for all Great Southern trains.

Serco put Great Southern up for sale in late 2014 after deciding that the business no longer fit with its strategy. In the U.K., Serco has two concessions to run regional and commuter rail in Northern England, in conjunction with Dutch Railways subsidiary Abellio.

Serco also took over operation of sleeper train services between London and Scottish cities on Tuesday.

From Trains Newswire



The Great Southern-operated 'Ghan' service from Darwin is seen north of Alice Springs in Australia's Northern Territory. Keith Fender

SAN FRANCISCO "MUNI" HERITAGE WEEKEND SET FOR SEPTEMBER

SAN FRANCISCO – The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, also known as Muni, and its non-profit partner Market Street Railway have set Sept. 26 and 27 for the fourth edition of a "Heritage Weekend." The event will include historic streetcars, cable cars, and buses that are rarely seen on city streets, all available for the public to ride. Specifics are still being worked out, but Market Street Railway representatives say they plan to introduce at least one newly restored vehicle to the operation.

Events will take place across Steuart Street from the Market Street Railway Museum at 77 Steuart Street. Details of the event will be announced

later this year.

Right: The Funeral Car under construction in Elgin in early 2015. Jim Wrinn

From Trains Newswire



REPLICA OF THE LINCOLN FUNERAL CAR TO BE UNVEILED AT GALA EVENT

By Elfrieda Abbe | March 20, 2015

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – The Historic Railroad Equipment Association will present a replica of the Lincoln Funeral Car at a gala event on May 2, 2015, in Springfield to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's death and funeral.

The car is the culmination of five-plus years of intense research, diligence, and hard work by Elgin mechanic Dave Kloke and a small band of volunteers dedicated to re-creating the Funeral Car. In preparation for the event, the group is adding the finishing touches to the magnificent 48-foot long, 13-foot high, rich reddish-brown railcar, including hand-forged railings, decorative wheels, custom-made brass lanterns and smoke stacks, and silk and leather wall coverings. Each detail has been meticulously researched to replicate the original as close as possible, Kloke says.

Building the car is part of a wider plan to take the Funeral Car and Kloke's *Leviathan* 4-4-0 steam locomotive on the road to retrace the 1865 route of the original funeral train from Washington, D.C., to Springfield. In order to make the trip, the group needs to raise an additional \$100,000. *From Trains Newswire*

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



Another shot from the camera of D.L.A. Turner, with great lighting effects, of the Tramway Historical Society Sunset Tour of Christchurch on 18 March 2015. Few of the original buildings along Cashel and High Streets survive today after the devastation of the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes. One that did was Bonningtons building (cc 1884) which has been repaired and restored, backdrop to Invercargill Birney 15 arriving beside the new Stranges Complex at the current end of the extension.

FRONZ CONFERENCE BLENHEIM
29 MAY—1 JUNE 2015

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